

The Brooklyn Paper

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Sterling Street residents Alicia Boyd and Claudia Loftis helped their block win the title of "greenest" in the borough.

The green giants

Sterling Street takes Greenest Block prize

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

Sterling Street is finally the greenest in Brooklyn. The foliage-filled block between Washington and Bedford avenues in Prospect Lefferts-Gardens was named the "Greenest Block in Brooklyn" last Wednesday—after nearly a decade of vying for the title. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden awarded the horticultural

honor, judging on the basis of garden lushness, floral home adornment, and community elbow grease. "It won because it was absolutely the most impressive," said Robin Simmen, director of GreenBridge, the arm of the garden that runs the verdant tournament, which is now in its 19th year. The block is lined with well-preserved, two-story brown-

stones and brick row houses and its shrubbery and window planters beat out 200 other stretches of road in neighborhoods from Greenpoint to Coney Island. Sterling Street's yeoman yard workers have entered the contest eight times before, but this year they wooed a panel of judges, who visited not once, but three times, by lining the curb with whiskey barrel planters and deco-

FACE THE MUSIC

As MTV show approaches, nabe worries about impact

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

The Video Music Awards are landing in Brooklyn in less than two weeks and secrecy around the event has Barclays Center neighbors scared MTV's moon man plan has all the makings of an Apollo 13. Prospect Heights residents say they have no idea what to expect when the award show touches down at the arena and, having heard next to nothing from the music network, some fear the worst. The internationally televised event is likely to fill the 18,000-seat arena at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues on Aug. 25 and locals say that network officials have not answered even the most basic questions about street traffic, noise pollution, construction, and other possible disruptions before, during, and after the massive bash. "We don't know what our nights will be like and what our days will be like," said Peter Krashes, president of the Dean Street



Lady Gaga is scheduled to perform at MTV's Video Music Awards at the Barclays Center on Aug. 25.

Block Association. MTV and the Barclays Center held an invite-only meeting for residents in June, but company officials were unprepared to field simple queries like how many cars to expect, who will move along idling limos, or how the loud crowds will be contained, meeting attendees say. The award show was on the agenda of another meeting in July organized by Empire State Development, the state agency overseeing the arena, but officials from MTV and Mayor Bloomberg's office did not even bother to show up, according to locals, leaving them feeling caught in a bad romance. "Every question one could ask, it was like, 'Well, the relevant people aren't here,'" said Tom Boast of the Carlton Avenue Block Association. Residents said that the only concrete details they have about the celebrity blow-out arrived in the form of a two-page letter

See MTV on page 5



The ice rink at McCarren Park Pool is finally set to open this December.

ICE TO SEE YOU

Two long-delayed rinks to open this winter

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Sharpen your skates. Ice-skating rinks are coming to two Brooklyn parks this winter, to the relief of borough skaters

frustrated by delays that melted their prospects last year. The McCarren Park pool and the replacement for Prospect Park's Wollman rink will both open in mid-December, officials

say. Both projects failed to open last year due to money troubles, forcing the skaters of Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and brownstone Brooklyn to trek long distances

See ICE on page 12



Gowanus activist Warren Cohen and mayoral hopeful Bill Thompson rallied against the Lightstone high-rise last week.

Fight-stone group

Activists: New development will be disaster

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

The massive luxury housing complex headed for the banks of the Gowanus Canal breaks laws and will flood neighborhood streets with putrid canal water, opponents of the project said at a protest last Thursday. Dozens rallied that night to protest the Lightstone Group

development, which is slated to rise on a canal-front property bounded by Bond, Carroll, and Second streets. Neighbors gathered on the Carroll Street Bridge, which spans the fetid waterway, just steps from where the real estate firm is preparing to build the 700-unit rental project. The Lightstone Group expects to break ground on the

site early next year and finish work by 2015. "The project's design is ill-suited for the community," said First Street resident Warren Cohen of Save Gowanus, the group behind the rally. Lightstone opponents have blasted the development since the beginning, complaining that new

See GOWANUS on page 11

Keeping the Inter-faith

Court shuffle gives hope to would-be hospital saviors

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The court tasked with overseeing the financial execution of a Bedford-Stuyvesant hospital is keeping the Inter-faith alive, if only for an extra week and a half. Activists bent on keeping the Inter-faith Medical Center open have a little legal breathing room thanks to a court reprieve that will push the closure process back 11 days. The Eastern District bankruptcy court was scheduled to approve the Inter-faith closure plan Aug. 15, but a judge has postponed the hearing until Aug. 26,



Protesters rally to save Interfaith Medical Center.

PLUS: WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SECURITY GUARDS AT LICH? SEE PAGE 5

giving hospital advocates extra time to file for an injunction to halt the sudden shuttering. "Our lawyers are working on every possible angle to make sure the community's needs are met here," said Dan Lutz, spokesman for the New York State Nurses Association, a union. Hospital staffers and politicians, including public advocate and mayoral hopeful Bill DeBlasio, are also planning to fight the hospital shutdown through street

See INTERFAITH on page 12



Evil umpire

Darth Vader throws out the first pitch during Friday's Star Wars Night celebration at MCU Park. Don't miss our Cyclones coverage on page 2.

Ire over giant G'point project

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A humongous housing development planned to rise in Greenpoint at the confluence of Newtown Creek and the East River is going to force up rents, endanger new residents, and strain neighborhood resources to the breaking point, neighbors said at a raucous meeting on Tuesday. The community board meeting was the first public hearing on the Greenpoint Landing project, which will include 10 towers and as many as 5,500 apartments on 22 acres. Many of the 250 who attended the packed meeting came to let developers and local pols know that they are not happy about the idea of a



Helen Kersten voices her disapproval of the plans for the Greenpoint Landing at a meeting on Tuesday night.

high-rise village in their backyard. One of the most vocal opponents was Helen Kersten, who said the development's pricey rents would push her out of the neighborhood

See BIG on page 6



Therese Flemstrom of Karlskoga, Sweden at the Brooklyn Brewery.

Bklyn invades ... Sweden?

Brewery will host a four-day festival in Stockholm

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

They gave us delicious meatballs and Ikea. Now, Brooklyn is giving Sweden an injection of indie rock and artisanal eats. A four-day, Brooklyn-themed festival, called Brooklyn, Sweden, will bring a quirky cross-section of the bor-

ough's food, art, and music scenes to the strange soil of Stockholm, starting on Aug. 22. The party is in its second year and organizers say Brooklyn residents have more in common with their city-dwelling Swedish counterparts than they might think. "Scandinavia has become known for many of the same things that Brooklyn

is known for: a simplicity and foraging in cooking, and there is an explosion of indie rock from both places," said Ben Hedson, marketing director at the Brooklyn Brewery, which put the fest together in partnership with Swedish music promoters Debaser (yes, like the Pixies song)

See SWEDEN on page 11

Robinson statue defaced

By Scott Hansen
for The Brooklyn Paper

A vandal scrawled neo-Nazi slogans and racist slurs on the statue of Dodger great Jackie Robinson outside MCU Park in Coney Island last Tuesday night, and cops are scouring the borough for the culprit. The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force

is investigating the vandalism of the iconic statue of Robinson and his teammate Pee Wee Reese that stands outside the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, but has yet to collar the scoundrel responsible. "[The vandalism] was a biased act and consisted of anti-Semitic remarks," said Detective Kelly Ort.

The grotesque graffiti marring the base of the statue included "F--- Jackie Robinson," "Die n-----," "Heil Hitler," and a swastika scribbled with a black marker. Cops from the 60th Precinct found the vandalism at 8:30 am on Wednesday and a cleanup crew quickly arrived

See HATE on page 12



The statue of Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese at MCU Park.



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Aquarium bridge scrapped

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

The long-neglected pedestrian bridge over Surf Avenue finally got some attention from city workers last Wednesday — who took it down overnight.

The shark-painted span linking the W. Eighth Street-New York Aquarium train station to the Boardwalk finally sank, as a demolition crew ripped it down in the dark of night on Aug. 7.

The fishy bridgenetted both fans and detractors in the 50 years that it took visitors over Surf Avenue to the Boardwalk — and its demise went over swimmingly with some, but left others high and dry.

The elevated pathway was long an orphan, with neither the Metropolitan Transit Authority, nor the Parks Department willing to take responsibility for maintaining it.



The New York City Economic Development Corporation tore down the bridge connecting the W. Eighth Street-New York Aquarium stop to the Boardwalk late at night on Aug. 7.

The paint job chipped and rusted, the pathway became pitted, and an analysis last year concluded it was in danger of falling down eventually.

“I’ve been working on it for 17 years, and it’s finally gone,” rejoiced Community Board 13 district manager Chuck Reichenthal.

Others lamented the loss of an iconic part of the People’s Playground — and of an easy and safe route from the train onto the Boardwalk.

“If you went to Coney Island as a kid, you got off that subway, you crossed that bridge, and you were in Coney Island,” said CB13 member Pat Singer. “We’ve been hung out to dry.”

Singer, who had fought to get the city to fix up the span over the years, argued that it should build a new one. But the New York City Economic Development Corporation — the semi-public agency that acts as the city’s liaison to business, and which paid to demolish the structure — said no such plans are in the works.

Instead, the Corporation said the city intends to widen the sidewalks, install a traffic light at W. Eighth Street and Surf Avenue, and create a new entrance to the seaside promenade at W. 10th Street.

Can’t stop, won’t stop

Teen who threw bash on Manhattan Bridge still defiant

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The party promoter who got himself and two disc jockey pals arrested for throwing a giant shindig on the Manhattan Bridge this weekend said he will continue to organize illicit bashes because young Brooklynites are strapped for nightlife.

“We saw a bunch of young people with nothing to do and we gave them something to do,” said Alex Schlaferman, a 19-year-old Bensonhurst native who goes by Alex Xander and hosts un-sanctioned parties around the borough.

The Manhattan Bridge event started at about 10 pm on Friday night. A Facebook invitation instructed revelers to walk up the pedestrian path from the Brooklyn side and gather near the middle, where the walkway is wider. What they found was a booming, generator-powered sound system and a young crowd waving bottles in the air. Close to 400 people were there by the time the last disc jockey got rolling at midnight, according to one report, many of them teenagers, according to another, though Schlaferman puts the number at 1,000.



Alex Schlaferman (above) threw a party on the pedestrian walkway of the Manhattan Bridge.

“Will I get arrested?” asks a hypothetical attendee in the party invite.

The organizers’ answer: “No, but we might.”

Cops from Downtown Brooklyn’s 84th Precinct raided the party at about 12:40 am, arresting Schlaferman and a disc jockey duo called Bear

Sauce, charging all three with disorderly conduct, trespassing, and reckless endangerment. One of the arrested mix masters said the criminal charges are not going to stop him from pumping up the jams at future parties.

“When you are doing something you love and spreading happiness, something like getting arrested does not matter,” said Robert Melendez, one half of Bear Sauce.

Schlaferman says that it is the sixth event he has thrown since last summer and that each party has been free and un-permitted, including one in a hangar at Floyd Bennett Field and one in a big, open lot in Bensonhurst.

For some of the parties, Schlaferman says he hauled in toys like bouncy castles, mechanical bulls, and slides. The bridge bonanza was Schlaferman’s last for the summer, but he will be back at it next year, he said. The just-busted teen guru said his fun-hungry peers are counting on him.

“It’s a movement more than a party,” he said.

L train shuts out night owls

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

It has only been one week and night owls in Williamsburg and Bushwick are already grumpy.

The L train is shutting down from Lorimer to Myrtle-Wyckoff every week night from 11:45 pm to 5 am until

September and, so far, the service change is emptying out bars and leaving late-night L riders with big headaches and little patience for the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

“Leave it to the MTA to screw us over again,” said Sarah Ryman, who lives near the Jefferson Avenue L stop in

Bushwick and works near the Bedford Avenue L stop in Williamsburg. Ryman says she has been taking the M train and the walk adds an extra half an hour to her usually short trip.

The closure is part of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s Fast Track program, where the agency shuts

down a line for a large chunk of time to perform maintenance work. Free nighttime shuttle buses trace the route of the L, but they tend to be slow, overcrowded, and sporadic, eliciting groans from store owners who say no train means trouble for their bottom line.

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MONTHLY HEALTH TIPS
from New York Methodist Hospital

To Breastfeed or Not to Breastfeed

By Sanford Lederman, M.D.
Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
New York Methodist Hospital

"My due date is only weeks away, but I'm still on the fence about whether or not to breastfeed my baby—can you give me some pros and cons of breast milk versus formula?"

Weighing the benefits and drawbacks of breastfeeding and formula-feeding, just as you're doing now, is a great way to develop a feeding plan that suits your family's unique needs.

Breast milk's combination of fat, sugar, water and protein is designed to support newborn development, and the composition of a particular mother's breast milk will change naturally in response to her baby's feeding habits and age. Through breast milk, mothers pass on antibodies and proteins that protect babies against infection and inhibit the growth of harmful bacteria in babies' intestines.


While commercial formulas lack the complexity and antibodies of breast milk, they do contain the right amount of fat,

proteins, sugar and water to sustain a healthy baby. Formula is harder for babies to digest, which decreases the number of times babies need to be fed, but can also lead to more instances of diarrhea or constipation.

Some women have difficulty with breastfeeding at first, but many hospitals, including NYM, have lactation consultants who can teach new mothers techniques that will help them breastfeed.

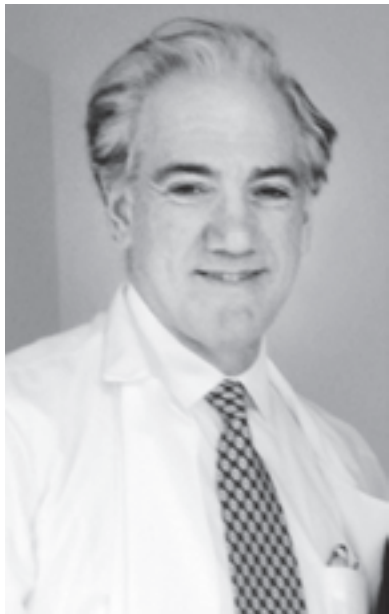
Ultimately, the choice between breastfeeding and formula-feeding is an individual decision that each woman has a right to make for herself and her baby. There is no set formula to follow.

NYM has a breastfeeding support group available to all new mothers, whether or not they have given birth at NYM. The group meets every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. on the third floor, room 3K-C, at 506 Sixth Street in Brooklyn. You can call 718-780-5081 for more information.



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Crook tries to take woman's phone

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

A would-be thief attempted to snatch a phone from a straphanger in the Jay Street-Metrotech subway station on Aug. 5, police report.

The victim was riding the A train at 2 pm when the person next to her asked for the time. When she said she didn't have it, the thief put on gloves and tried to take the phone from her purse pocket.

The victim fled through the open doors at the Jay Street station, thankfully with her phone still on her.

Bag bandit

A quick bandit stole a laptop bag from a man on Duffield Street on Aug. 4, police said.

The victim was near Fulton Street at 11:30 pm when the bandit snatched the laptop bag, containing a Mac laptop, from the victim's shoulder. The perp ran down Duffield and disappeared.

Phoning it in

A thief snagged a phone from the hands of a pedestrian walking on Fulton Street on Aug. 5, police said.

The victim was near Bond Street at 11 pm when the thief plucked the phone right out of the victim's hands and fled down Bond Street.

Smoke screen

Police arrested a man who they say assaulted and robbed a person on Fulton Street Mall on Aug. 8, police said.

The victim was near Hoyt Street at 11:54 pm when the perp asked the victim for a cigarette and then a light.

"I don't smoke," the victim said. The perp then allegedly punched the victim in the head, took a cellphone and ran away. Police say they arrested the suspect and returned the phone to the victim.

— **Jaime Lutz**

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at
BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

The 36-year-old victim told cops that she got out of the yellow cab in front of the eatery between Third and Fourth avenues at 9:30 pm and went to grab her luggage out of the trunk, which was locked. When she asked the driver to unlock the trunk, he said okay, but continued to drive away with her suitcase holding her MacBook Pro, clothes, shoes, perfume, and toiletries.

The victim later contacted the driver and he said that he did not have her luggage in his trunk, cops said.

Wedding crasher

A sly bandit made off with a woman's purse while she was at a wedding at a Third Street venue on Aug. 10.

The 47-year-old victim told cops that she left her brown leather pocketbook in the office of the wedding venue between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 6:30 pm for safekeeping. When she returned about an hour and a half later her bag — containing her credit cards, \$130, cellphone, and Metro-North train tickets — was missing.

Party foul

A brazen crook stole a woman's car keys while she was at a private party at a Flatbush Avenue bar, then jacked her vehicle that from its Saint Marks Place parking spot overnight on Aug. 8.

The 44-year-old victim told police that her friend parked the red Nissan on the street between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 11:20 pm and they both went to the bash near Saint Marks Avenue. While at the party, the victim's friend left the car keys on the table and the victim discovered them missing at 2:15 am. Shortly thereafter, her ride — which contained her Gucci sunglasses, Tom Ford sunglasses, a dress, jeans, and a suit — was also gone.

Yard fail

A man's angry brother punched him and bashed him in the face with coffee mugs from the man's yard sale in front of his 11th Street house on Aug. 11, according to police.

The 56-year-old victim told cops he was in front of his abode between Sixth and Seventh avenues at 4 pm when his brother showed up and bought coffee cups. Then the two began to argue.

"I'm going to take your house," said the violent brother, who punched the victim in the face and struck him with the coffee cups, causing cuts and bruising to the victim's face, according to a police report.

Bathroom break

A crook snatched a woman's cash and bank cards that she left unattended inside a Seventh Avenue coffee franchise on Aug. 10.

The 33-year-old victim told police that she was in the chain cafe between First Street and Garfield Place when she went to use the bathroom at 1:15 pm, leaving \$60 and her debit and credit cards on the counter. When she came out about 10 minutes later her belongings were gone.

The perp made purchases with her credit card, according to a police report.

Sneaky snatch

A sly bandit snagged a woman's small purse from inside her pocketbook while she was walking on Flatbush Avenue on her way to the Long Island Rail Road on Aug. 2.

The victim told cops that she purchased her ticket for the train and went to get a snack near Atlantic Avenue at 10 am. The woman was making her way through a crowd and was pushed. She then realized that her purse containing her debit card, \$95, and driver's license, was missing.

Two-wheel theft

A thief stole two bicycles from the basement of a woman's Sackett Street apartment on Aug. 6.

The victim told police that the perp took the two-wheelers from the residence between Fourth and Fifth avenues sometime around 8 pm.

Automo-steal

A thief stole a man's car that he left on Flatbush Avenue on Aug. 7.

The 53-year-old victim told cops that he parked his tan Honda on the street in Prospect Park at 9:10 am and when he returned close to 3 pm his ride was gone.

— **Natalie Musumeci**

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope

Waist-bandits

Police arrested two men who allegedly attacked a man and stole his iPod while he was on Third Avenue on Aug. 7.

The 20-year-old victim told cops that he was near Carroll Street at 9:20 pm when the 25-year-old suspect grabbed his electronic music device from him while a 27-year-old accomplice punched and kicked the victim, causing bruising and swelling to his face, police said.

The younger perp — who cops said had a warrant out for his arrest — then threw the iPod at the victim and grabbed his own waistband as if he was armed, according to a police report.

To-go bag

A lead-footed taxi driver drove away with a woman's suitcase holding more than \$1,000 worth of goods after he dropped her off at a Union Street barbecue restaurant on Aug. 6.

almost convinced her to send him naked pictures of herself.

The 24-year-old victim told police she was walking her dog through the park at noon when she got a call from a man with an accent. The man said he was holding the victim's mother hostage and that if she did not do what he said, he would kill her mother. The man demanded that she buy him prepaid phone cards and tell him the pin numbers of the cards.

While he was still on the phone, the victim went to a Duane Reade and purchased the cards and told him the numbers. He then told her to go home, take naked pictures of herself, and send them to him via text message. At that point, the woman hung up the phone and called her mother, who said she had not been kidnapped. In all, the woman was on the phone call for 37 minutes. Police have the phone number of the caller but have not yet arrested him.

Wallet swipe

A creepy thief in black sunglasses, who was carrying a newspaper and had a white towel around his neck, stole a woman's property on the L train on Aug. 8.

The victim told police that she got onto a crowded L train at First Avenue at 7:30 pm and that the strange-looking man got on the same stop. As the train raced through the tunnel, she felt the man's newspaper touching her left arm, but didn't think anything of it. The victim got off the train at Lorimer Street and a witness stopped her.

"That man took your wallet," he said.

The woman searched her pocketbook, and sure enough, her wallet, driver's license, credit card, MetroCard, and cash were all missing. Police canvassed numerous stops along the line but found nothing.

Fast-track

A robber snatched a necklace off of a woman's neck on the L train at the Lormier Street stop on July 28.

The victim told police that she was on the last train of a Canarsie-bound train at 4:30 am. When the train stopped at Lorimer, the crook stepped into the car, reached through the bars on the side of the seat and snatched the yellow necklace from around her neck.

Sleep no more

Someone stole a guy's bag from under his feet as he slept on a Brooklyn-bound L train in the early morning of Aug. 5.

The victim told police that he got on the train at Manhattan's Union Square station and fell asleep at the First Avenue station. When he woke up at Bedford Avenue at 2:30 am, he looked down and saw that his bag — which contained cash, his cellphone, wallet, MetroCard, and debit card — was missing.

He did not see who took the bag. He told the cops that he was drunk and wanted to go home.

Bike-by

A kid on a bicycle on Engert Avenue stole an iPhone out of a guy's hand on July 23.

The victim told police

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick

Guns for justice

An opportunistic thief stole a retired cop's gun when he set it down on a table at a Graham Avenue phone store on Aug. 7.

The 61-year-old victim told police that he put his property on a table as he was making a phone call inside the business between Moore and Varet streets at 4:30 pm. When he turned around a moment later, his Smith and Wesson gun, his Department of Corrections ID card, two credit cards, a pistol permit, and \$900 in cash were all missing.

Hit and run

A pair of thugs bashed a guy in the face as he was walking down McKibbin street on Aug. 5 — and then stole his iPhone and wallet.

The victim told police that he was at the southwest corner of Bogart Street at 1:40 am when a guy suddenly hit him in the face. The victim could not remember if he lost consciousness.

The robber grabbed the phone and wallet out of his pockets. The 20-year-old victim said he saw the guys running down the street before he was taken to Woodhull hospital for treatment.

Work theft

Someone stole the contents of a woman's backpack when she left it in the back area of her workplace on Metropolitan Avenue on Aug. 3.

The woman, who works at a restaurant between Marcy Avenue and Havemeyer Street, told police that she left her bag in an open area while she worked. After her shift ended at 6 pm, she came back to find her ID card, credit card, onyx ring, and backpack with animal print pocket all missing.

Walk and rob

Two robbers stalked a guy down Varet Street on Aug. 7, and then threatened him with a gun.

The victim told police he was at the southeast corner of Graham Avenue at 2:30 pm when he realized that he was being followed. A minute later, the men cut in front of him.

"Empty your stuff," one of them said. "I have a gun and I will shoot you."

The tough guys then took the 19-year-old's property, including his iPhone, \$25 in cash, driver's license, ID card, credit card, and wallet.

Bike robbers

Two speedy robbers on bicycles grabbed a woman's phone on Penn Street on Aug. 6.

The victim told police she was walking at the northeast corner Broadway at 10 pm when the teenagers rode up alongside him and one of them grabbed the phone out of her hand. They rode off and were not seen again.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

BRONX & BROOKLYN

Sealed bids will be received at Madison Square Boys & Girls Club office at 317 Madison Avenue, Suite 1110, New York, NY 10017, until 1:00PM on September 10, 2013, meal catering service at the following facilities: Columbus Clubhouse, 543 East 189th Street, Bronx; Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, 1665 Hoe Avenue, Bronx.; Navy Yard Clubhouse, 240 Nassau Street, Brooklyn; and the Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse, 2245 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn.

New York State specifications for approximately 150 hot suppers and/or snacks served daily at each facility may only be obtained by contacting Lois Mickey at Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, 10:30AM - 4:00PM at (212) 760-9600. All work will be conducted in strict accordance with bid specifications. Bids will be opened and read on September 10, 2013 at 1:00PM.

Fort LICH

Boosters: State has turned hospital into armed camp

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Long Island College Hospital has more security guards than doctors these days and the omnipresent sentries are making the place feel more like a jail than a medical center, hospital advocates say.

The guards are harassing staffers and would-be patients in and around the embattled Cobble Hill institution, according to a doctor who testified in court last week as part of the last-ditch legal fight to save the hospital. Hospital advocates say the intense security presence is an illegal ploy by the state to close the health care facility once and for all.

“I feel intimidated,” Dr. Alice Garner testified last Friday.

Garner, who is head of neonatal care at the 155-year-old institution, said that a room full of babies is no place for

men with guns, according to the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. Garner testified that only one doctor remains on duty in the emergency room and that guards search her purse whenever she enters, according to the Eagle.

This paper’s reporter visiting the hospital last Friday saw no guns but did encounter more than a dozen guards patrolling outside and interrogating anyone who tried to enter through the sole unlocked door. The gauntlet of security guards is just one of the ways the state is defying court orders that bar it from taking any more steps to close the hospital, advocates say.

“[The state] has been intentionally and willfully violating court orders,” said Jim Walden, a lawyer for the public advocate’s office arguing at a Thursday hearing. Walden and lawyers



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Security guards crowded around the mostly closed Long Island College Hospital, questioning everyone who entered.

for nurses unions blasted the guards and the diversion of ambulances from the hospital’s emergency room in a series of hearings last week, saying that the measures put the state in contempt of court, a violation that is punished by fines or jail.

A lawyer for the State University of New York, which is trying to close the hospital, said on Thursday that the guards are necessary because of anti-closure protests outside the hospital, which he described as “angry mobs in front of LICH.” The state is trying to have both lawsuits thrown out on technical grounds, claiming that the plaintiffs lack legal standing.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Johnny Lee

Baynes said he could decide whether the state broke the law by this Friday, but that he would prefer it if the two sides reached a peace deal instead.

Also last week, a court struck down the state’s appeal of a temporary restraining order reached by the nurses unions — meaning that the outcome of that case rests in Baynes’s hands.

The state has been trying to close the hospital since February over fierce opposition. In court last Thursday, Baynes bristled at a state health department claim that the closing process has been orderly.

“To call it even a transition, let alone an orderly transition, strains the meaning of the words,” Baynes said.

Two killed in park

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Two men were shot and killed in Fort Greene Park last Friday, but by Monday afternoon the bloody crime scene was far from the minds of most park-goers.

Children played in fountains, joggers pounded up the park’s challenging stairs, and workers shot some hoops on their lunch break, just feet away from where a gunman let off nine rounds, killing Jamal Issac Page, 21, and Anthony Earl-Govon, 22, and injuring a third man at 11:30 pm three days earlier. The killings, which reportedly took place as some 50 kids hung

out nearby, were a grisly reminder of a time when Fort Greene was synonymous in some people’s minds with crime. One park-goer said that the past violence was not confined to the neighborhood, which has been a bohemian hot spot since the 1980s, but was a fact of life in the whole borough.

“It’s Brooklyn,” said Domenick Propati, sitting on the sidelines of a basketball game. “Depending on how long you’ve lived in Brooklyn, that’s what you expect.”

Police have no suspect so far in the killings, which occurred on the Myrtle Avenue side of the park near Saint Edwards Street, police said.

Sean and Colleen Greene of Kensington were dog-sitting in the neighborhood but, after being informed of the killings, said that they would not return to the park. Despite the vow to keep away, the pair said the shooting did not come as a shock.

“I’m not surprised, personally,” Sean Greene said.

Longtime neighborhood residents said they would stay put because they do not want to cede ground to criminals.

“I can’t let them bully me out,” said Mayra Gonzalez, a Fort Greene resident who walks through the park every day.

MTV...

Continued from page 1

from the network, spelling out road closures and parking restrictions for the days surrounding the gargantuan gala. Sixth Avenue will shut down between Atlantic Avenue and Dean Street, beginning on Aug. 23, according to the letter. The street closures will balloon to encompass eight Prospect Heights blocks between Flatbush Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Bergen Street, and Vanderbilt Avenue on the day of the awards show and “crowd control” will be in effect, the letter said.

Just what will happen on those blocks remains a mystery and neighbors say the note did little to allay their concerns.

“How much noise are the fans going to make? What is going to happen to our tree beds?” asked Krashes. “Where is the rerouted traffic going to go?”

Sources familiar with the plans said that the music network will line Dean Street with grandstands, but MTV spokesman Jake Urbanski would not confirm that.

“That is still to be determined,” Urbanski said.

Nor would the network spokesman reveal the location of the red carpet, but in the letter the network wrote that there will be “ample activity mostly along Sixth Avenue and Dean Street.”

MTV officials declined to say how much the network expects to make from this year’s awards show, which will include performances from Miley Cyrus, Robin Thicke, Katy Perry, Kanye West, and, yes, Lady Gaga. Last year, 6.13 million people tuned in to see who would get a moon man, making the awards show edge out the Democratic National Convention for most-watched television program.

Anxious neighborhood car owners will get a break from the parking crunch, at least. MTV says it will reserve a Barclays Center parking lot on Pacific Street for residents only.

A spokeswoman for the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, which gave MTV permits for the event, said that despite residents’ claims of radio silence, the office is in close communication with the community.

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BIG...

Continued from page 1
where her family has lived for generations.
“You are going to put 10,000 people at the end of this neighborhood. You are coming here and not even giving us a gift,” Kersten yelled. “You have insulted us.”
Other attendees demanded to know how the city could allow the developer to build on a creek that has been designated a Superfund site.
“For the health of the residents, I request that we do not build on the creek until we clean it up,” said neighbor Darren Lipman.
But development advocates say that Greenpointers have nothing to worry about and that they will get plenty out of the deal.
A spokeswoman for Park Tower Group, the company hoping to build the complex, told the rowdy crowd that 1,382 units will be set aside for affordable housing and emphasized that the towers will come with a terraced park, which she said will repel toxic creek water in the event of a flood; a kayak launch for calmer times; a dog park; and walkways allowing non-residents to reach the noxious waterfront.
Jack Hammer, director of the city’s Department of Housing Preservation and Development, acquiesced to hecklers’ demands that he reveal rents for the affordable units, saying that rents would run from \$560 to \$1,290 for a studio apartment, \$600 to \$1,610 for a one-bedroom, and \$1,100 to \$1,925 for a two-bedroom.
The promises did little to placate the angry Greenpointers who interrupted tower boosters throughout the night.
“This is going to take more cops, firemen, transportation, sewers and power,” Erica Matechak said. “How will this be supported?”
The Greenpoint Landing project was made possible by the 2005 rezoning of miles of waterfront land that had previously been zoned for industrial uses. Other projects piggybacking on the new rules include the Domino Sugar Factory in Williamsburg, the 77 Commercial St. tower in Greenpoint, as well as projects already built including Northside and the Edge, the glass condo compounds on the Williamsburg waterfront. Neighborhood activists have condemned the rezoning, saying it has only



The Greenpoint Landing’s 10 towers and 5,500 apartments will look like this if developers get their way, but neighbors are fighting the plan they say will drive up rents, strain infrastructure, and expose luxury apartment dwellers to the Newtown Creek’s toxic waters.

helped developers build mega-projects that are too big for their neighborhoods and have driven up housing prices.
The community board will announce its vote on the project sometime in the next month, but the board’s vote is strictly advisory and the city has final say. In the past, controversial projects that the board has shot down, such as the rezoning and the original Domino Sugar Factory project, all gained city approval.
The Park Tower Group still needs the city to sell a waterfront lot that is currently being used to store Metropolitan Transit Authority vehicles, and it is counting on a zoning variance to let the towers rise.
The development company’s spokeswoman said construction should begin in the first quarter of 2014 if all the approvals go through.

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(718) 260-2500 *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings* August 16-22, 2013

Jiminy cricket

Bring your own creations to life in Fort Greene shop

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Aspiring puppeteers now have the chance to step into a Fort Greene workshop to carve a character of their choice out of foam-rubber — the same squishy substance that fills couches and mattresses.

Puppet maker Kevin Augustine, founder of the Lone Wolf Tribe puppet theater company, said those who enter his laboratory come in with a simple front and side sketch of a face, and leave with something astonishing and strange.

“People are really surprised,” he said. “They come in with no idea with how they’re going to do this, and they leave with this puppet head.”

Over the course of three-and-a-half hours, the participants learn to shape the block with knife and scissors — a technique Augustine has perfected during the 16 years the Lone Wolf Tribe has been in operation. The puppet master said his fascination with the art form began in childhood, with a plaything his grandmother made for him from a sock, a buck-toothed dragon Augustine named Fang.

WORKSHOP

Puppet-Sculpting Workshop at the Lone Wolf Tribe, inside the Alliance of Resident Theatres Studio [138 South Oxford St., between Atlantic Avenue and Hanson Place, in Fort Greene, (718) 398-3701, www.lone-wolftribe.com]. Aug. 25, 2 p.m. \$65.

“She made this toy for me, a toy that no other kid could go and buy,” said Augustine.

“That’s what made it so special for me.”

Years later, when Augustine was a budding playwright struggling to find the perfect performers to bring his stories to life, he turned to puppets again — and discovered that they unlocked great creative doors for him.

“I tried to form a company, but I could never get enough actors to share a vision and stick together. So I went back to my past, and I thought, ‘Oh, wow, I can make my own actors,’” Augustine said.

“Once you create the puppet, you can create the world it lives in, and then you can write the play.”

Ultimately, Augustine decided to mold the Lone Wolf Tribe’s troupe from foam-



Dog days: Kevin Augustine will show you how to make your own foam puppet-head on Aug. 25.

rubber, rather than from socks or felt or polished wood. The puppeteer said he picked the material for its spongy, almost flesh-like quality, which he argued gives his characters a distinctive personality.

“For me, there’s a real emotional texture to the foam. Something about how the light falls on it, it really comes alive in a way that is not as precious as some really smooth, porcelain doll face,” Augustine said.

“There’s something more organic to

the foam, something that people say really gives the puppet a soul.”

The customers range from curious amateurs to school teachers to professional puppeteers, each of whom give life to their individual vision. Augustine compared the craft to Renaissance sculpture.

“Michelangelo believed the figure is already in the block of stone, or the chunk of foam... and you release it,” said Augustine.



Composed canine: What is Penelope the Toy Shepherd thinking? A book of poetry called “I Could Chew On This” provides a glimpse into the canine mind.

Poetic pooches!

A dog chats it up with The Paper

By Sol Park
The Brooklyn Paper

Author Francesco Marciuliano has helped cats speak their poetic minds in “I Could Pee On This and Other Poems By Cats,” and with his latest “I Could Chew On This,” the author is publishing some of the best works canine lyricists from an “unprecedented — and unaccredited — writing program” have produced, such as “I Lose My Mind When You Leave the House,” and “I Dropped A Ball.”

On Aug. 28, the author will invite humans and dogs to a reading at the power-house Arena in Dumbo.

Now, with Marciuliano’s help, The Paper checked in



with a real Brooklyn dog:

Sol Park: What do you think is a city dog’s greatest fear is? Greatest joy?

A dog: A city dog’s greatest fear is that their person completely misjudged their size in

relation to their apartment. After all, no giant Mastiff wants to enter his new forever home and find only so much space for him to walk in a tight circle and sleep.

A city dog’s greatest joy is that first day with their new family — and every day after that. Oh, and when someone rings the doorbell, because there is always the chance that the person at the door may have not sufficiently cleaned his or her face after eating.

SP: What kind of improvements might a dog suggest to the next mayor?

AD: For years, dogs have been trying to make mayors aware of their needs only to be met with such responses as “Who’s a good doggy?”

“Who’s a good, good doggy?” And “No! That is not how we greet people here!” So instead dogs have taken to forming their own community action groups to make certain there is always something muddy and rancid to roll in.

Also, their political campaigns have posters featuring a photo of a dog and the slogan “Won’t walk off in mid-press conference like a cat.”

SP: Do you know any dog writers who are planning to publish the great American novel?

AD: Despite their usual open nature, dogs can be very secretive when it comes to their book pitches. You can be running around in the park with them, wrestling with them, getting licked by them. But the moment you ask, “So, how’s that historical fiction novel you’re working on about the two incompatible samurais who run a B&B going?” and suddenly the dog will get very quiet. He will avoid your gaze. He will drop the tennis ball from his mouth. He

See **DOG** on page 10

CINEMA

Marching on

A cinematic retrospective seeks to explain the iconic 1963 march on Washington as much as to celebrate it.

The film series is an expansive, multi-genre affair — playing better known films such as the 1961 Daniel Petrie adaptation of Lorraine Hansberry’s classic, “A Raisin In the Sun,” alongside the priceless cultural criticism of James Baldwin, as captured in a trio of documentary films chronicling the musings and travels of the iconic novelist and essayist.

“So much footage from the late ’60s has totally dominated our imagination of the civil rights movement,” said director Nellie Killian, who curated the provocatively titled series “A Time for Burning: Cinema of the Civil Rights Movement.”

“Those images are so indelible, and so important, but there was a history of activism before the March that we wanted to show.”

“A Time for Burning: Cinema of the Civil Rights Movement,” at BAM Cinematek at BAM Rose Cinemas [30 Lafayette Ave., between St. Felix Street and Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, bam.org]. Aug. 13-28.

— Vinson Cunningham

ART

Drawing in

You know a place is special when architects keep sketching it well-after the blueprints have been drawn.

A contest asking for artistic renditions of the famous Grand Central Terminal has brought out the poetic side of architects and designers — notably Zach Downey.

His pen and ink drawing titled “Eddies of Pause” is noticeably the most eloquent piece in the Grand Central Sketchbook exhibition at the New York Transit Museum. Icons associated with New York’s beloved landmark — Grand Central Oyster Bar, the four-faced clock crowning the information booth, concrete cherubim, and the starry ceiling — are harmoniously entwined like lines in a haiku.

“I think spaces sometimes evoke words, but more often I think words evoke spaces,” said Downey. “Maybe this is the architect in me.”

“Grand Central Sketchbook: Designers Dream” at the New York City Transit Museum [130 Livingston St., entrance at Schermerhorn Street and Boerum Place in Downtown, (718) 694-1600. Through Dec. 1, \$7, \$5 children and seniors.

— Samantha Lim

MUSIC

Rocking out

The band members might all be in their teens, but between them, they have several decades of musical knowledge.

The Skins members ages range from 14 to 19, and with two years of touring and recording under their belts already, the Brooklyn talents are a well-worn, solid machine of soulful, frenetic rock.

“Even our ballads are heavy,” said musician Bayli McKee-than.

Bayli was 14, and his siblings Kaya and Reef were 13 and nine when they started going to Paul Green’s School of Rock in Manhattan. Since then, they have lived and breathed music. There, they met classmates and dueling guitarists Daisy Spencer and Russell Chell.

They have already played a bunch of Brooklyn and Manhattan venues, including Spike Hill, the House of Yes, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Brooklyn Bowl.

The band members never dreamed that they would become full-time musicians. They planned to go to and finish college and get a regular job. But now, that seems to be changing. All of the members in college plan to take a year off and 14-year-old Reef will be home schooled.

The Skins at the AfroPunk Festival at Commodore Barry Park [Nassau Street at Navy Street in Fort Greene, afropunkfest.com]. Aug. 24-25, free.

— Danielle Furfaro

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Class pranks

A Williamsburg comedy event is a part show, part tell affair

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

If they're letting you on stage, you better have something to show for it. A comedy show in Williamsburg is recreating the classroom atmosphere of show-and-tell — and just like when you were a kid, it takes more than words to impress your classmates. "I was always the king of

show and tell when I was a kid because I would bring in weird stuff," said Lukas Kaiser, the host and organizer of the monthly Showcase Jones. "[My mom] was an anatomy instructor and would have model hearts, anatomy books — one time she brought in a brain in a jar for me." Before presenting a night of stand-up comedy, the

show asks audience members to come on stage and show off something weird or cool. The two parts of the night go hand-in-hand, as Kaiser says the kid activity is not unlike standing on stage and telling jokes. "I would bring in something weird and riff on it and get laughs," he said. "It was probably the first comedy gig I've ever been booked on, second grade show-and-tell."

In Brooklyn, the popularity of adult kickball, scavenger hunts, and Popsicles indicate there isn't a shortage of nostalgia in the borough. Kaiser hopes to bring the childlike compulsion to show off weird stuff to comedy. "I've been doing stand up comedy for about five years and it's fantastic, performing in front of audiences all over New York, but I missed the participation element of those days when I was a kid," said Kaiser. So far, Brooklynites have brought in some impressively bizarre objects to show off — last month, that included inappropriate tattoos, photographs of a dead goat, a homemade tube amplifier, a Shaquille O'Neal comic book, oddly enough, a bag of donuts with a remote control. In every show the audience votes on a winner to take home a grand prize — this time \$100 in cash "to be placed inside an odd, yet to be determined item," Kaiser said.



Look what I got: Lukas Kaiser is holding an old-fashioned night of show-and-tell — for adults — at Over the Eight bar in Williamsburg.

BAR SCRAWL



By Bill Roundy

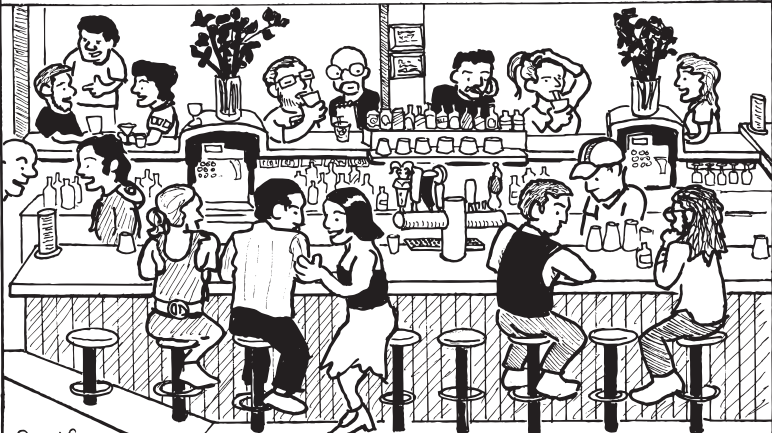
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The dice kept rolling

How a kids' game changed the world

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

A journalist's new book tells the story of how a set of 20-sided dice, a character sheet, and a monster manual known as Dungeons and Dragons changed the world. Like modern day video games, there was no shortage of fear and loathing directed at the seemingly innocuous hobby, and while the author explains how the game grew out of chess, opponents had a different argument — it came from Hell! "In the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was some hysteria about Dungeons and Dragons being Satanic, corrupting children, and causing them to commit crimes and suicide," said Forbes Magazine's resident video-game honcho David Ewalt. "There were a series of coincidences where a distraught kid committed suicide or a robbery, and investigators found Dungeons and Dragons in his basement." Ewalt is celebrating the unveiling of his new project, "Of Dice and Men: The Story of Dungeons & Dragons and the People Who Play It," at the Greenlight Bookstore on Aug. 23, which details the millenium-old influences that spawned the pen and paper behemoth and how a \$70 billion nerd industry might not have existed without the world's geekiest pastime. "I really wanted to tell the history of the game and explain to the



Critical hit: David Ewalt is celebrating the launch of his book, "Of Dice and Men: The Story of Dungeons & Dragons and the People Who Play It," at the Greenlight Bookstore on Aug. 23.

rest of the world, 'This is what this game is,'" said Ewalt. "There are a lot of weird preconceptions about the Dungeons and Dragons, but it's really an awesome past time." Ewalt traces Dungeons and Dragons' origins to chess, the original tabletop war game, where players assemble armies of miniature soldiers and battle. Tabletop war games added dice to calculate one warrior's chance to hit another, but what Dungeons and Dragons creators Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson did differently, Ewalt argues, is they shifted the player's focus from the commander of an army, to the perspective of one hero — the result was nothing short of magic. "Dungeons and Dragons came out of nowhere," the author said. "In the space of a few years it was one of the biggest games in the world, especially in the U.S." Since then, the pen and paper game has gone on to inspire a generation of creative minds, video game developers, and filmmakers, including, Ewalt says, Iron Man director Jon Favreau, who learned how to craft riveting narratives by battling orks and beholders with the roll of a d20. "Of Dice and Men: The Story of Dungeons & Dragons and the People Who Play It," at the Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliot Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com]. Aug. 23, 7:30 pm. Free. A limited number of people who pre-order Ewalt's book, or purchase it at the launch event will receive an invitation to a secret game of Dungeons and Dragons somewhere in Brooklyn.

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Last heat until fall

Do not look back on summer, yet

By **Jaime Lutz**
The Brooklyn Paper

Everybody's thinking it: it's like summer never happened. After a short heat wave in July, New York City's famous crazy summer hasn't really reared its ugly head this year, and yet it's halfway through August and it looks like kids will be going back to school soon and adults will be switching from iced coffee to pumpkin spice lattes any moment now. But don't hang up your flip flops just yet — there's still time to make this season worthwhile. Here are some things you should not miss out on before the heat is all but gone.

Book yard
It's the perfect combination for the shut-in book worm and the habitual beach reader. At Unnameable Books

in Prospect Heights, you can find a huge variety of used tomes just waiting for you to flip through and also enjoy the beautiful back yard which hosts readings.

Unnameable Books [600 Vanderbilt Ave. in Prospect Heights, (718) 789-1534], 11 am–11 pm.

BBQ with a view
Buy ingredients for a barbecue at the Borough Hall Greenmarket — such as vegetable skewers, corn, even hunks of good bread — and then take your bounty to Brooklyn Bridge Park with some grilling supplies. Grills get filled up fast on the weekends, so try to find time during the week.

Grills at Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 5 (Joralemon Street past the Brooklyn Queens Expressway). **Borough Hall Greenmarket** (Court Street and Mon-



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

tagne Street in Downtown, grownyc.org).

Rent a bridge
This is what CitiBike is basically for, right? If you're not a great bike rider — that is, you don't ride around with a chain strapped to your chest — the Brooklyn Bridge makes the perfect route in the summer. It's not just for tourists and in fact, don't let the beautiful view cause a collision with one.

Find the bike path at Tillary and Adams streets between Downtown and Brooklyn Heights.

Strikezone
It's time. Time to go see the Brooklyn Cyclones in all their minor-league glory, with fun themed nights, photo ops with Sandy the Seagull, and of course, a real good game of hardball.

MCU Park [Surf Avenue and W. 16th Street in Cooney Island, (718) 449-8497, brooklyncyclones.com]



Community Newspaper Group / Sol Park



Photo by Tom Callan

Sunny days ahead: (Pictured clockwise) Adam Tobin, the owner of the Unnameable Books store in Prospect Heights, shows what he's reading at a poetry event in the bookstore's backyard. William and Andrew Dresher enjoy a day out at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 5, where there are plenty of spots to bbq. And enjoy some kid-free laps at the Red Hook Pool.

Thar she blows
Maybe summer isn't done with us, yet. In case of freak heat wave, opening up a fire hydrant for a refreshing soak is legal, if you do it right. Just go to your local fire department to get a spray nozzle and ask a firefighter to do it for you.

Peeping Franzen
You'll finally have something in common with the author of "Freedom." With internet guides, learning to birdwatch is easier than ever.

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DOG...

Continued from page 7

will say in a very quiet but clearly very aggravated tone that he shared that idea with you in private and here you are yelling it out at the dog park where you just know that thieving schnauzer who stole his idea about "The Da Vinci Code" but with chew toys" will rip it off as well. Then he will refuse to go to the bathroom until you are

back home again.

SP: Favorite poets?

AD: Well, there is a Springer Spaniel in Cobble Hill who specializes in the spondee meter. And there was a Whippet in Red Hook who was a master of the elegy but has lately fallen under the spell of visual minimalist poetry and now all his pieces involve nose smudges against glass.

SP: Now for the tough questions. What are some of the best and worst odors in Brooklyn?

AD: To a dog there are no bad odors. Every odor uncovered during a walk must be properly sniffed and snuffed, analyzed and itemized, reviewed and re-experienced until the dog's person realizes three days have passed and the dog has only moved a quarter of an inch down the sidewalk.

SP: What do you call the thing on top of a house?

AD: Gambrel? Eaves? Truss? Cupola? Clearly the dog poet over here is either trying to show off or simply

typed "roof" into thesaurus.com and just replied with the first four synonyms.

SP: Who's the greatest baseball player of all time?

AD: Anybody who throws a ball to a dog for a game of catch is the greatest baseball player of all time.

But, in all seriousness, the real answer is "Babe Roof!"

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A tale of two churches

Boro’s historic citadels struggle to keep out the elements

By Melissa Goldin
for The Brooklyn Paper

Sometimes praying just doesn’t cut it.

Two of the Christian houses of worship that help make Brooklyn the Borough of Churches are struggling to keep their buildings from falling apart and, faced with dwindling flocks and rising

rents, they are turning to their fellow man to make sure repairs get made.

Brown Memorial Baptist Church on Gates Avenue at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill is the latest in a long line of churches to look for new ways to keep god’s house from crumbling. One of the church’s 12 stained-glass

windows, called “The Pilgrims,” is buckling because of water damage and pulling away from the window frame. The church could not come up with the funds to fix it, so enterprising congregants applied for and won a \$200,000 grant from Partners in Preservation. Still, they say they need to raise another \$150,000, and for that they are returning to the old standby: passing the hat.

“We’re asking the community to help restore a living, breathing part of history,” said Beverly Jacobs, the chair of the church’s window restoration committee.

So far, church boosters have raised about \$15,000, mostly from churchgoers and neighbors. The church hopes to come up with the rest by



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Jose Orengo, a member of Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Clinton Hill, is helping raise money to restore The Pilgrims, one of the church’s 19th-century Tiffany stained-glass windows.

SWEDEN...

Continued from page 1

In characteristic Swedish fashion, the folks at De-baser are more blunt about the similarities.

“Brooklyn and Sweden both have loads of hipsters,” said promoter Annelie Telford.

Performers will include rapper El-P, punk goddess Lydia Lunch, and electronic dance composers Designer Drugs. The cineastes from the Found Footage Festival and the Bicycle Film Festival will screen their movies and organizers of the annual Brooklyn Blowout BBQ will team up with Brooklyn Brewery head chef Andrew

Gerson to serve up local meats to the hungry Nordic hordes.

Sweden is the brewery’s second-largest market after Brooklyn. The Williamsburg brew pub itself gets some of the action: about 20 percent of the visitors who take tours of the beer works are from Sweden.

The borough suds purveyors are hosting the festival to promote their second brewery, which it is currently being built in Stockholm. The company expects to open the ale factory in January and begin manufacturing a new line of beer called New Carnegie.

GOWANUS...

Continued from page 1

residents will crowd neighborhood schools and subways, cause traffic jams, and stress already over-taxed sewers.

The complex will be raised by two feet to comply with post-Sandy flood regulations, a fact protesters railed against, saying that the high ground will channel rainwater into the canal and make flooding worse if another major storm hits.

“It’s going to aggravate the flooding region-wide,” said Gowanus activist Marlene Donnelly.

The Lightstone Group shows no signs of slowing down and says that it is the activists who are aggravating. The rally organizers are spreading “not just misinformation, but disinformation” about the residential complex, company spokesman Ethan Geto said. The company claims it has received every government go-ahead it needs and that it has filed a complete environmental review, which shows that any increase in flooding would be dispersed throughout the canal and the New York Harbor, and into the ocean. The company points to the support of Gowanus’s Community Board 6 as evidence of how aboveboard the process has been.

“The rally organizers simply do not have the facts on their side,” Geto said.

But members of Save Gowanus claim that the development firm is illegally moving forward without state and federal reviews and that the City Planning Commission broke the law when it rubber-stamped the development in March. The activists say they plan to sue Lightstone Group and probably the planning commission.

The canal-side apartments have drawn ire from the start, when the luxury builders Toll Brothers won a hard-fought rezoning to allow housing on the Gowanus. Toll Brothers bailed after the Environmental Protection Agency named the fetid channel a Superfund site, setting in motion a costly federal cleanup that is scheduled to take until the year 2020.

Former city comptroller and mayoral hopeful Bill Thompson showed up at the rally to throw his hat in with Lightstone opponents, backing their claim that it is foolhardy to erect deluxe apartments alongside a toxic waterway.

“This isn’t the type of development we need,” said Thompson. “To rush this [project] sitting, not near, on top of a Superfund site, doesn’t make that much sense.”

Thursday’s rally followed a secret meeting on Monday in Gowanus, held by local officials to discuss a “comprehensive plan” for the area, according to an invitation to the event obtained by The Brooklyn Paper. The meeting, which was closed to the public and to members of the press, was organized by Councilman Brad Lander (D–Park Slope) along with Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (D–New York), Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D–Carroll Gardens), State Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D–Fort Greene), and Councilman Stephen Levin (D–Greenpoint), according to the invitation. Only a select group of neighborhood activists were invited to the meeting, which the invitation touts as the beginning of an “inclusive planning process.”

Pols at the meeting floated the idea of rezoning the manufacturing areas along the canal, attendees said.

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Some 20 blocks away on Carroll Street at Seventh Avenue, Park Slope’s Old First Reformed Church has been struggling to keep its roof from falling on praying heads for nearly two years. The 120-year-old church closed its 1,100-seat sanctuary for Christmas in 2011 when the ceiling showed signs of disrepair, leading to fear that congregants might get pelted with plummeting plaster. The closure prompted an outpouring of support, netting the church \$200,000 in donations from approximately 200 people.

“If you take care of other people it seems like the community will help take care of you,” Pastor Daniel Meeter said.

The church’s six-story ceiling is made up of plaster ribs stretching the length of 10 football fields, making the room look taller than it is and throwing the choir’s voices.

Church leaders have tapped several architects for a prescription on how to repair the huge roof, but each is recommending a different fix. Once they finalize a plan of attack they will still have to choose a construction agency to complete the job. They hope to

have the whole thing done by April 2015, in time for Easter.

“It’s a unique ceiling,” said Meeter. “It’s very difficult to know exactly how to fix it.”

An exodus of the faithful is a big factor in the two churches’ woes. Half of Brown Baptist’s members have left, leaving 750 churchgoers, while the flock at Old First Reformed is down to 160 from a peak of 400. A slew of other Brooklyn churches faced with similar circumstances have called it quits and cashed in, selling their buildings to developers eager to turn them into luxury apartments.

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Sterling Street residents celebrate their win.

GREEN...

Continued from page 1
rating house fronts with window boxes and stoop pots. The Sterling team was exhilarated by the win.
“We’re very thrilled. We worked hard,” said Claudia Loftis, a 20-year resident and the chair of the block’s garden committee. Loftis cited the green-thumbed residents’ commitment as the key to their victory. She added that the neighborly gardeners often water the flowers of elderly block residents who are unable to do it themselves, and even care for the plants in front of

an abandoned home.
“If everybody’s doesn’t look good, no one’s looks good,” she said.
The block, which came in fourth place last year, was decked out this time with vibrant black-eyed Susans, begonias, petunias, geraniums, coral-bells, and vinca flowers. The prize comes with \$300 and, of course, borough-wide bragging rights.

Other winners of this year’s competition include: Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Nevins streets in Boerum Hill, which won greenest commercial block; Macon Street between Ralph Avenue and Howard Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, which won best tree beds; and Fulton Street’s My Brooklyn Baby, which took home the title of greenest storefront.

ICE...

Continued from page 1
to practice their triple salchows.
“Everything is moving forward,” said Parks Department spokesman Philip Abramson about the McCarren pool rink.
The Parks Department picked a vendor to set up the rink in hopes of avoiding a repeat of last winter, when the McCarren plan cratered after the Open Space Alliance of North Brooklyn, which had fought for the rink, let a crucial deadline pass, then decided that it would be too expensive.
The McCarren rink and Prospect Park’s skating facility at the long-delayed Lakeside Center will end a three-year ice drought that has been H-E-double-hockeysticks for borough skate enthusiasts, who have had to go as far as Aviator Field in Mill Basin, Abe Stark Arena in Coney Island, and even Manhattan to get their glide on. The \$74-million replacement for the Wollman rink had been scheduled to partially open in late 2012 but plans for a temporary stand-in rink veered off-track, leaving the skating complex on ice. Rink construction is not finished and the Prospect Park Alliance is still negotiating with a vendor, but the complex, which will have an indoor and an outdoor rink, is really opening this time, according to alliance spokesman Paul Nelson.
News of the openings was music to the ears of borough residents itching to strap on some skates.
“It’s something that the community has wanted to see happen for a while,” Greenpointer Ryan Watson said.

The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Stephanie chimes in on opting out

It could be the poster child for the confusion currently reigning over whether or not it is a good or bad idea for women to “opt out” of the workforce in order to stay home and raise children. The problem is, I’m not sure whether I’d be pictured wearing a smile or a scowl.
The roughly six years since I left the workforce without a plan other than to drop off and pick up my kids from school have been rough ones. And I say this sheepishly since I am one of the lucky ones whose family income allowed for me not to have to bring in too much. I was free to bake those cookies, organize those closets, be a patient homework-helper, serve up those gourmet dinners I made almost every

night pre-kids.
Ha. The loss of scheduled productivity and self-sustaining income was a one-two punch that has taken its toll on my self-esteem. And my marriage. And my parenting.
I have been fairly shocked at how hard it is to stay motivated and focused outside the framework of a specific structure, without the rigorous demands of a weekly magazine, without the threat of a boss’s ire. I always thought I was self-motivated, since I was able to work well on the two days I worked at home for the first six years of motherhood. But that was with deadlines looming and someone expecting something, and something good, by a specific time.
I volunteered a lot that



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

first year or two, co-chairing the library committee and spending hours and hours scheduling classes for the mobile library when the school’s own was being renovated, and then helping the school librarian put the library back together and get it up and running. I helped plan some great events.
I sat in cafes and drummed up ideas for freelance stories of the kind I’d always wanted to write. But getting up the gumption to pitch them after

a call from the teacher about my son standing on a chair? If I couldn’t even get my son to behave if I wasn’t working, what right did I have to advise other parents on parenting? Turns out the Container Store gives me hives so I never did get to those closets. We eat out a lot, and homework has gone undone unless the kids took it on themselves. I guess I’m not at all smarter than a fifth grader, or even a fourth or third grader.

But then, the time spent making close friends out of other struggling-to-figure-it-out strangers in cafes, taking long walks in the park to figure out myself and the dreams I’d barely been able to dream, the extended showers where I’d stay in long after turning off the water to write my thoughts in my robe, that time has been priceless to me. I have written drafts of novels and started playing piano by ear, things I wouldn’t have had time for or made time for while working full time.
My kids look at me strangely if I threaten to go back to work.
“No,” they’ll say definitively, a sign they do like having me around if only for fresh popcorn after school, and the only ego boost I’ll get all day besides a good

parallel park.
If I sound blasé about this subject, believe me, I’m not. It is an issue that, sadly, has no right or wrong answer.
It is a muddy path. The choices that were so hard won are not nearly as glorious as Gloria Steinem might have predicted. But they have to be made, and we have to look forward and say, “What now?”
I’ll ask the lawyer I’m talking to in a few minutes on my latest mompreneur business idea what he thinks I should do. After all, it was our accountant who suggested I quit way back when. I think his words were, “Why work if you don’t have to?”
I couldn’t answer him then, but I can now.

INTERFAITH...

Continued from page 1
protests.
“The legal angle is just one angle,” Lutz said.
The nurses association and 1199 Service Employees International Union together represent most of the 1,544 Interfaith employees. More than 150 hospital advocates showed up to a first protest rally last Thursday night despite driving rain.
“This is about care for all of Brooklyn,” said registered nurse Charmayne Saddler-Walker. “Not one hospital should close in our borough.”
The hospital on Atlantic Avenue between Albany and Troy avenues is set to close in mid-November if the state gets its way, forcing the 300,000 mostly poor and uninsured people who use its services annually to look elsewhere for health care. Managers had planned to stop accepting ambulances and admitting new patients on Aug. 15.
Interfaith is the second borough hospital to start shutting down this year. Long Island College Hospital announced its shuttering in February. Workers and pols are pushing back against that closure in court and in street protests, but only a few patients remain in the Cobble Hill facility.

HATE...

Continued from page 1
in the hope of removing the vile verbiage before the Cy-clones game in the afternoon. When their initial efforts failed, the workers covered the slurs with duct tape and a tarp until more effective graffiti-removal equipment could be brought to bear.
In addition to bringin charges of defacement of public property and hate crime charges, the police may ban the perp for life from MCU Park, Ort said.
Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball when he joined the then-Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947–1956, winning a World Series in 1955. The statue honoring him and Reese was erected in 2005.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 08/13/2013, bearing Index Number NC-000946-13/K1, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Maria (Middle) Abygail A (Last) Formoso. My present name is (First) Maria (Middle) Abygail M (Last) Aspillaga AKA Baby Girl Manzanilla Aspillaga AKA Maria Abygail Manzanilla Aspillaga AKA Maria M Aspillaga. My present address is 1763 60th street, Brooklyn, NY 11204-. My place of birth is Baguio City, Philippines. My date of birth is June 03, 1972.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 08/12/2013, bearing Index Number NC-000943-13/K1, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Sami (Last) Khan. My present name is (First) Usaamah (Last) Khan. My present address is 219 Dahill Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11218-. My place of birth is Brooklyn, N.Y. My date of birth is March 12, 1992.

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THIS MAKES **NO** COMMON SENSE.

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CATSIMATIDIS FOR MAYOR

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John Catsimatidis Has Been Endorsed By The
NYPD's Sergeants Benevolent Association

"John Catsimatidis has the courage to stand-up to the City Council on issues like Stop and Frisk and the so-called Community Safety Act."

- Ed Mullins, President



SBA President Ed Mullins with John Catsimatidis

Vote For John Catsimatidis In The September 10th Republican Primary!